

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A structure for supporting a catalyst bed in a vessel comprising a series of primary supports extending across the vessel and a lattice assembly carrying the catalyst bed disposed beneath the primary supports and suspended therefrom via suspending means extending through the catalyst bed.
2. (Original) A structure according to claim 1 wherein the primary supports extend chordally across the vessel.
3. (Currently amended) A structure according to claim 1 wherein the lattice assembly comprises a plurality of ~~secondary support~~ base assemblies and a plurality of grid assemblies carried by the ~~secondary support~~ base assemblies.
4. (Currently amended) A structure according to claim 3 wherein the ~~secondary support~~ base assemblies are suspended from the primary supports by tie rods.
5. (Currently amended) A structure according to claim 4 wherein the ~~secondary support~~ base assemblies are disposed in a square configuration.
6. (Currently amended) A structure according to claim 4 wherein the ~~secondary support~~ base assemblies comprises base members connected by pairs of grid supports supported by the base members and capable of longitudinal and lateral movement relative to one another and relative to the base members.
7. (Currently amended) A structure according to claim 6 wherein the grid supports are supported by pins to hinge members pivoting in the base members about an axis ~~parallel~~ perpendicular to, but above, said pins.
8. (Previously presented) A structure according to claim 6 wherein a grid assembly is supported by the inner one of each pair of grid supports connecting adjacent base members.

9. (Original) A structure according to claim 8 wherein the grid assembly comprises members extending across the area enclosed by said inner grid supports but free to move longitudinally relative thereto.
10. (Original) A structure according to claim 9 wherein said grid assembly includes a ring member engaging with said inner grid supports, and said members extending across the area enclosed by said inner grid supports are located in notched in the upper surface of said ring member.
11. (Currently amended) A structure according to ~~any~~ claim 1 for use for the oxidation of ammonia wherein the catalyst bed comprises a wad of gauzes or meshes of a precious metal.
12. (Currently amended) A structure according to ~~any~~ claim 1 for use for the oxidation of ammonia wherein the catalyst bed comprises a fixed bed of particles of a rare earth/cobalt oxides composition.
13. (Original) A structure according to claim 1 wherein the primary support members are disposed radially.
14. (Currently amended) A structure according to ~~any~~ claim 1 including a static start-up burner arrangement in the form of one or more perforate tubes adjacent the primary supports and supplying means to supply a combustible gas to said tube or tubes, the perforations in said tube or tubes being disposed so that a flame can be directed down from the tube or tubes on to the catalyst bed.
15. (Original) A structure according to claim 14 wherein said start-up burner comprises a single perforate tube disposed adjacent the primary supports in a serpentine configuration.
16. (Currently amended) A structure according to ~~any~~ claim 1 wherein the suspending means comprises tie rods and at least some of which are provided with a start-up burner arrangement.

17. (Previously presented) A structure according to claim 16 wherein at least some of the tie rods are hollow and have radial holes therein and supplying means are provided to supply a fuel gas to the interior of said hollow rods.

18. (Previously presented) A structure according to claim 16 wherein at least some of the tie rods are provided with an enclosure surrounding the tie rod for at least part of its length, said enclosure being provided with burner orifices and means to supply a fuel gas to said enclosure.

19. (Previously presented) A structure according to claim 13 including a start-up burner arrangement in the form of a plurality of radially extending burner tubes one for each sector, each tube having a plurality of perforations disposed so that a flame can be directed down from the tube or tubes on to the catalyst bed, and oscillating means are provided to oscillate the radially extending burner tubes about the longitudinal axis of the apparatus below the primary support members.

20. (Currently amended) A structure according to ~~any~~ claim 1 wherein said primary supports are carried by a skirt member located round the interior periphery of the vessel.

21. (Original) A structure according to claim 20 wherein the lower portion of the skirt member is of frusto-conical configuration, and the lattice assembly is attached at intervals to said lower portion.